

Catamount Spirit

Published for Alumni, Friends and Employees of Potomac State College of West Virginia University

www.potomacstatecollege.edu

August 2006 • Volume 6, Number 2

New Residence Hall Under Construction



Since groundbreaking in mid June, students walk past and see the daily progress made as construction continues on the new residence hall located next to the Lough Gymnasium. When completed, the \$19 million facility will house approximately 350 students in single-, double- and quad- suites with semi-private bathrooms; including, seven ADA-compliant rooms.

The dining area will include a "Cash and Go" section which will operate after hours and a multi-purpose banquet room with a seating capacity for approximately 136 individuals.

Amenities include: an aerobic-type fitness center, a video game room, a 74-seat theatre, laundry facilities, and student mail boxes.

Young Alumni Award



Since graduating from Potomac State in 1999, Keivette R. Hammond has been busy making a name for herself. She currently teaches physical education and serves as head basketball coach of the women's team at Frederick High School. Prior to that, while serving as assistant coach at Birmingham-Southern College, Hammond's team excelled in steals and was named number one in the Big South Conference and number two in the nation during the 2004-2005

season. Her team was also named number three in the Big South Conference for scoring defense in 2005. Hammond will be honored during the Awards Banquet, Homecoming Weekend, on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006.

Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Edward J. Williams

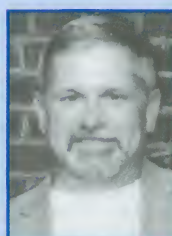
Dr. Edward J. Williams is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Arizona, a graduate of Potomac State College, Class of '58, and one of this year's recipients of the Alumni Achievement Awards. Williams has served as a Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellow, a Fulbright Scholar and as a consultant with the U.S. Labor, State and Defense Departments.



Keith Inskeep

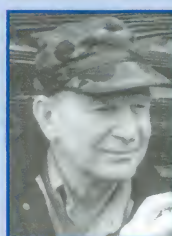
From humble beginnings to international scientist and educator, Dr. Keith Inskeep will be honored as a recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award in October during Homecoming Festivities. Inskeep attended Potomac State from 1955 to 1957.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients



Don Starcher

Former Professor Don Starcher will be honored posthumously during the Awards Banquet on October 7, 2006. Starcher began his employment with the College in 1978. During his time here, Starcher worked with the greenhouse, served as advisor to the Ag Club and as coordinator of farm operations. He was a staunch advocate of agriculture and always encouraged his students to strive for greater achievements.



Glenn C. "Tink" Smith

Glenn C. "Tink" Smith is one of this year's recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. He attended Potomac State from 1932 to 1934. Smith is most notably recognized for his contributions to wildlife photography, especially his photographs of the wild turkey, having been published in *Wild Wonderful West Virginia*, *National Wild Turkey Federation Magazine*, *Turkey Call Magazine*, and *Turkey Hunting Magazine*, as well as other magazines, newspapers, books, and calendars.

A Message from the Provost



Dear Alumni and Friends of Potomac State College,

The weather in Keyser, like many parts of the country, has been hot. And "Hot" is also a good descriptor for the pace of activity on campus this summer. Many of the improvement projects planned for Potomac State are now taking shape. Since graduation on May 6th we have:

- Completed an upgrade to our **campus networking hardware**, which has improved our access speed 10 fold.
- The network upgrade provided for the installation and utilization of a new **VoIP phone system**. Voice over IP phones use our existing data network wiring to transmit telephone messages. This change will result in significant savings for the college over our previous system.
- A **new parking lot** for residence hall students has been completed adjacent to the Church-McKee Arts Center. Two other smaller lots were also constructed to meet the needs of our commuting students.
- The foundation walls are nearly complete on our **new residential complex**. This facility will house 350 students, a new dining hall, a 74-seat theater, and many other amenities for our growing student population.
- Renovations are underway in the **Mary F. Shipper Library**. This project is expected to be completed in March and will include the installation of an elevator and enhancements to the interior including greater access to technology and electronic holdings.
- **Numerous other improvements** have been completed all around campus and on our farms.

While we have made significant investment in our facilities, we have also recognized that without our **faculty and staff**, there would be no need for our buildings and grounds. We continue to hire faculty based on student interest in our academic offerings. Four new faculty will join our ranks this Fall in the areas of Engineering, Foreign Languages, English and Criminal Justice. Our staff also plays a significant role in the life of the College and this spring we established a Staff Recognition Program and recognized Linda Lancaster, an Administrative Associate in the Academic Affairs Office as our first honoree.

The College will soon begin its 105th year of providing quality academic opportunities to students. Our faculty and staff continue to take the College's mission seriously and they work very hard to see that every student is provided with the opportunity for success. We are anticipating that the largest group of freshmen in over a decade will be attending PSC this Fall. It is truly an exciting, and very, very busy, time for the College.

I hope that you will help us celebrate the successes Potomac State College is experiencing and join us if you can for "Homecoming 2006." Your continued interest in and support for Potomac State College's future is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kerry S. Odell
Campus Provost

Staff Person of the Year

Classified staff at Potomac State held a reception to award the first Outstanding Staff Person of the Year during the First Annual Weekend of Honors. The recipient was Linda Lancaster, (center) a 37-year employee who serves as an Administrative Associate in the Academic Affairs office.



The award was presented by Provost Kerry Odell (right). Co-presenter of the award was Michelle House (left), an Education Counselor in Student Support Services at the College, who also serves as President of the Classified Employees Council.

Professor of the Year



Pictured left to right are: Douthitt, Spalding, Wilcox and Turner.

Potomac State held a reception at the Candlewyck Inn to honor the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Professor of the Year Award during the First Annual Weekend of Honors. This year's recipient was Dr. Gerald Wilcox, a 27-year employee

and Professor of Biology. The award was presented by the Chair of Faculty Assembly, Phillip Douthitt, Professor of Business and Computer Science. Other nominees included Dr. Andrea Bucklew, who serves as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Social Sciences and Education, Mary Spalding, Instructor in English and Timothy Turner, Instructor in Biology.

Students Get Involved

Students at Potomac State enjoy getting involved and staying active in and around the community by volunteering for various projects. Reverend Jim McCune, Senior Pastor of the Keyser United Methodist Churches and Sally Bartling with the Lutheran Churches in Keyser and Westernport, W.Va., have taken groups to Wheeling, W.Va. for flood recovery work and Cape Hatteras, N.C. for hurricane recovery work.

The groups have also worked close to the college campus performing home repairs and clean-ups around the Potomac Highlands area, and have built sheds for Habitat for Humanity in Garrett County, Md. "Getting students involved in volunteering not only gives those on the receiving end much-needed help, but it also gives the students a sense of worth and satisfaction in helping a fellow human being," said Pastor Jim.



John R. Herman Added to Scholars Wall

John R. Herman, Class of '52 is a retired geophysicist and Renaissance man whose name was added to the Duke Anthony Whitmore/Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Scholars Wall this past spring during the First Annual Weekend of Honors.

During his career, Herman published more than 90 scientific papers and reports and two technical books. He is an amateur historian, a poet, an artist, and a musician.

His historical articles have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Miami Herald*, the *DAR Magazine* and the *Lowell (MA) Sun*. Some of his poems were published in two Anchorage, Alaska newspapers, and one of his oil paintings was featured in the *Melbourne (FL) Today* newspaper. Herman also played violin in the Long Bay Symphony Orchestra of Myrtle Beach, SC, the Melbourne (FL) Community Orchestra and now plays second violin in the DBCC Civic Orchestra of Daytona Beach, FL.



Historic Photo of the Month

Be sure and visit the Historic Photo of the Month under the Alumni & Friends section on the College Web site at www.potomacstatecollege.com. This is where we call on the memories of the alumni to help gather information about photographs from the archives. Each month a different photograph is posted for alumni to provide feedback identifying individuals and telling us what they remember about the event. Alumni can respond by e-mailing Libby Nichols at lnichols@mail.wvu.edu. Comments will be posted on the Web site the following month. Do you recognize anyone in this photo? What group might this be?



The Cat's Meow...



- There are three new **parking lots**, one to the left of Church-McKee Arts Center, another between the faculty apartments and the women's softball field and a third lot between the other faculty apartments and the maintenance shop.
- Among other etiquette procedures, students learned which fork to use and when to use it during our annual **Etiquette Luncheon** sponsored by the PSC Alumni Association this past spring.
- Alumni gathered in Lewisburg, WV and enjoyed an evening of fun reminiscing over their Potomac State days. Dr. Odell presented an update of campus initiatives, including a new dorm, and the College's future plans.
- Donors, students, faculty, staff, and alumni were honored during our first annual Weekend of Honors.
- Donald E. Kingery, Douglas S. Tanner, Rudy Telek, and Leo Skidmore were all honored at the **Athletic Hall of Fame** this year.
- Potomac State and WVU have an **integrated scholarship program**. Students who start at PSC receive comparable scholarships to what they would receive at WVU. Once the students transfer to WVU, they are eligible to continue receiving the scholarships at the WVU level.
- The first **Donor Reception** was a huge success with donor's and student recipients meeting and talking with one another about school, goals and future educational plans.

Homecoming blueprint... "Building on the Past... Expanding for the Future"

Whether playing sports for Coach Lough, writing articles for the school newspaper or shimmying down the side of the dorm on sheets, it's all about the memories! Make this the year you return to Potomac State College for Homecoming 2006 scheduled for the weekend of October 6-8.

This year's theme "Building on the Past – Expanding for the Future" is just the nudge anyone needs to return to their Alma Mater, to rekindle memories and build on past friendships as the future of Potomac State literally expands before your eyes.

On Friday, Oct. 6, there will be the usual '50s Get Together at the Fore Sister's Restaurant beginning at 6 p.m. The cost of the buffet is \$24.50 and includes tax and gratuity. Reservations are required and the deadline is September 29. Contact Pat Hovis at (304) 788-4065 for more information. There will also be a barn dance at the Upper Farm from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The Welcome and Coffee Hour & Recognition of Anniversary Classes '56, '81, and '96 will be held at the Student Union from 9 – 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7. Dr. Odell will provide a presentation of new campus initiatives around 10 a.m.

Other activities for Saturday include a baseball scrimmage, parent's sessions, open house and picnic, and men and women's soccer games. The day will culminate with the Awards Banquet which is being held in the Lough Gymnasium, with social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Reservations are required and must be made no later than September 29. Information is available on-line at www.potomacstatecollege.edu under Alumni and Friends or contact Libby Nichols at (304) 788-6870 or 800-262-7332, ext. 6870.

Be sure to stroll around campus and see all of the renovation and construction currently underway.

Donations needed for newsletter

Did you know that it costs \$5,000 per mailing to send this newsletter to alumni and friends of the College? We appreciate your loyal support and are asking you to make a tax-deductible donation to the PSC Alumni Association so we can continue to keep you updated on campus initiatives and Homecoming. Please send your contribution to the Potomac State College Alumni Office, 101 Fort Avenue, Keyser, WV 26726.